8 December 2016

Reference number: Fol - 320

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I am writing in response to the request you made to BBSRC under the Freedom of Information Act, which was received on Tuesday 22 November 2016.

Statement of information requested

I am currently working on research concerning the project to map and then sequence the pig genomes. In the UK, the teams working on this at Edinburgh and Cambridge received grant funds from the BBSRC’s predecessor institution, the Agriculture and Food Research Council (AFRC), as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF). I would like to enquire as to what archival materials and records the BBSRC holds, first of all, of its own activities since its inception, and also of predecessor institutions?

Background

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) is one of seven Research Councils that work together as Research Councils UK (RCUK). It is funded from the Government’s Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. BBSRC’s budget for 2014/15 was £509M and it supports around 1,600 scientists and 2,000 research students in universities and institutes in the UK. Information about BBSRC’s mission can be found on our website at http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/mission.aspx.

UK Shared Business Services (UK SBS) provides a range of services, including IT, to BBSRC and other public sector organisations. UK SBS enters contracts on its clients behalf and provides services to them.

Duty to confirm or deny

BBSRC does hold some of the information requested.

Requested Information

We have conducted a text search of the BBSRC research portfolio. Any awards that were returned by the search were then manually checked for relevance to your question and included in the accompanying dataset at annex 1.

The following search strategy was used in order to capture the requirements of your question:
"pig" AND "gene mapping"
"pig" AND "gene sequencing"
"pig" AND "gene sequence"
"pig" AND "gene map"
"sus scrofa" AND "gene mapping"
"sus scrofa" AND "gene sequencing"
"sus scrofa" AND "gene sequence"
"sus scrofa" AND "gene map"
"pig" AND genom*
"sus scrofa" AND genom*
"sus scrofa"
(Where * represents a wildcard, and will return any combination of characters, in this case capturing results such as ‘genome’; ‘genomes’ or ‘genomics’.)

As the details of these awards are published via the grants search functionality on the BBSRC website, and are in the public domain, we have included the grant reference numbers (at annex 1) so that you are further able to explore the details of these awards. In order to do this, please navigate to our quick grants search function, available at the following link: http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/research/grants-search/quicksearch/

From here, enter the grant reference of interest into the ‘BBSRC Reference’ search box, and click on the find button. This will take you to a summary page which will give you the details of the award.

You can use the ‘new search’ button at the bottom of this screen to navigate back to search form in order to search for the details of other awards.

If you have any further questions, please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

BBSRC Freedom of Information Officer

Publication: please note that this response to your request may be published on a public website.

Complaints Process

If you are dissatisfied with how we have handled your request, you may register a formal complaint with the BBSRC Complaints Officer at complaints.officer@bbsrc.ac.uk, who will conduct an internal review.

If you are not happy with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner, Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, Tel: 01625 545 745, https://ico.org.uk/.